

To: Schefski, Kenneth[Schefski.Kenneth@epa.gov]
From: Chalfant, Mark
Sent: Mon 8/10/2015 4:24:20 PM
Subject: FW: Update on Gold King Mine Response

FYI.

From: Trulove, Whitney **On Behalf Of** R8OCPI
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2015 10:14 AM
To: R8 All Employee; OECA Denver
Cc: R8OCPI
Subject: Update on Gold King Mine Response

By now you have likely heard of the Gold King Mine release that occurred on August 5, 2015. EPA was conducting an investigation of the mine to assess the on-going water releases from the mine, to treat the mine water and to assess the feasibility of further mine remediation. The plan was to excavate the loose material that had collapsed into the cave entry back to the timbering. During the excavation, the loose material gave way, opening the adit (mine tunnel) and spilling the water stored behind the collapsed material into Cement Creek, a tributary of the Animas River.

Initial estimates were that the release contained approximately one million gallons of water that was held behind unconsolidated debris near an abandoned mine portal. As of today, the estimate of water released from the mine is 3 million gallons. There were several workers at the site at the time of the breach, all were unharmed. The mine water, containing metals, has been flowing down the Animas River.

EPA has been coordinating with ATSDR in response to public health concerns/questions associated with the mine waste plume. Federal and State wildlife agencies are assessing impacts to wildlife. Region 8 has also been coordinating with Region 6 and Region 9 and the states of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and the Southern Ute Tribe. Potentially impacted water systems have been notified and precautions are in place to ensure drinking water in homes is protected.

EPA has approximately 40 staff working round-the-clock on the response. **We would like to thank everyone who worked over the weekend on the response, as well as Technical and Management Services staff who are making sure the response team has all the resources**

they need to do the work.

For the latest information on the response work, see this website: <http://www2.epa.gov/region8/gold-king-mine-release-emergency-response>

La Plata County also has a website: <http://www.co.laplata.co.us/emergency>